

- 23
- b) a pair of primary fasteners which are located on said laterally opposed outboard edges of said fit panel and which are configured to releasably engage an opposite waist region of said absorbent chassis to releasably engage said front waist region to said rear waist region to secure said absorbent article about a wearer's body; and
  - c) a waist size adjustment means integral with said fit panel for further conforming said waist regions to said wearer's body after said primary fasteners have been releasably engaged. ✓

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### Remarks

Claims 1-44 are currently pending in the application. Claims 10, 13, 14, 30 and 31 are withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner had mailed a Final Office Action on May 11, 2001 in which she made a final rejection of claims 1-9, 11, 12, 15-29 and 32-44. In response, Applicants mailed an Amendment After Final Rejection on July 9, 2001, amending claims 1, 20 and 37. On July 27, 2001, an Advisory Action from the Examiner was mailed. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner asserted that "...the scope of the independent claims [have changed] and therefore requires further consideration/search..." and subsequently did not enter the amendments to the claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the above amendments to the claims, which correspond to the amendments that Applicants submitted in the Amendment After Final Rejection, mailed July 9, 2001.

The amendments to the claims made herein do not introduce any new subject matter and are fully supported by the specification as filed. In Particular, support for these amendments appears in the specification at page 12, lines 22-29. **A Version of Claims With Markings To Show Changes Made** is enclosed and made a part hereof.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the above amendments to the claims for further consideration and search. If any additional information is required, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (920) 721-2433.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any prosecutorial fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account. A duplicate of this sheet is provided.

Respectfully submitted,

LAURA L. ELSBERG ET AL.

By: Alyssa A. Dudkowski  
Alyssa A. Dudkowski  
Registration No.: 40,596

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Mary L. Roberts, hereby certify that on August 28, 2001 this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid, Express Mail No. EK563921772US in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box CPA, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By: Mary L. Roberts  
Mary L. Roberts

**Version of Claims With Markings to Show Changes Made**

1. (Once amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising an absorbent chassis which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a pair of longitudinally opposed end edges, and a pair of laterally opposed side edges, said absorbent article further comprising:

- a) at least one fit panel which is located in one of said waist regions of said absorbent chassis and which defines a waist edge, a pair of laterally opposed outboard edges which are located laterally beyond said side edges of said absorbent chassis, and an inward edge which is located longitudinally inward from said waist edge, wherein said fit panel is configured to provide a conforming fit about a wearer's waist;
- b) a pair of primary fasteners which are located on said laterally opposed outboard edges of said fit panel and which are configured to releasably engage an opposite waist region of said absorbent chassis to releasably engage said front waist region to said rear waist region to secure said absorbent article about a wearer's body; and
- c) a pair of laterally directed perforation lines on at least one of two laterally opposed sides of said fit panel to provide at least one secondary fastener tab, said secondary fastener tab being configured to releasably engage said opposite waist region to further conform said waist regions to said wearer's body after said primary fasteners have been releasably engaged.

20. (Once Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising an absorbent chassis which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a pair of longitudinally opposed end edges, and a pair of laterally opposed side edges, said absorbent article further comprising:

- a) at least one fit panel which is located in one of said waist regions of said absorbent chassis and which defines a waist edge, a pair of laterally opposed outboard edges which are located laterally beyond said side edges of said absorbent chassis, and an inward edge which is located longitudinally inward from said waist edge, wherein said fit panel is configured to provide a conforming fit about a wearer's waist;
- b) a pair of primary fasteners which are located on said laterally opposed outboard edges of said fit panel and which are configured to releasably engage an opposite waist region of said absorbent chassis to releasably engage said front waist region to said rear waist region to secure said absorbent article about a wearer's body; and

- c) a pair of laterally directed perforation lines on each of two laterally opposed sides of said fit panel to provide a pair of laterally opposed secondary fastener tabs, said secondary fastener tabs being configured to releasably engage said opposite waist region to further conform said waist regions to said wearer's body after said primary fasteners have been releasably engaged.

37. (Once Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising an absorbent chassis which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a pair of longitudinally opposed end edges, and a pair of laterally opposed side edges, said absorbent article further comprising:

- a) at least one fit panel which is located in one of said waist regions of said absorbent chassis and which defines a waist edge, a pair of laterally opposed outboard edges which are located laterally beyond said side edges of said absorbent chassis, and an inward edge which is located longitudinally inward from said waist edge, wherein said fit panel is configured to provide a conforming fit about a wearer's waist;
- b) a pair of primary fasteners which are located on said laterally opposed outboard edges of said fit panel and which are configured to releasably engage an opposite waist region of said absorbent chassis to releasably engage said front waist region to said rear waist region to secure said absorbent article about a wearer's body; and
- c) a waist size adjustment means integral with said fit panel for further conforming said waist regions to said wearer's body after said primary fasteners have been releasably engaged.



The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any prosecutorial fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account. A duplicate of this sheet is provided.

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